

SHOULD YOU BRING YOUR PET TO KOREA?

1. Cost

Pet needs microchip, rabies, FAVN blood titer test, health certificate, kennel, and a flight.

Example cost:

Vet visit ~\$60, microchip ~ \$30, rabies ~\$15, FAVN ~\$165-500, health certificate ~\$40-250, kennel ~\$50-\$270, flight ~ \$200 – \$5,000 =
~\$560 - \$6,125

****Korean veterinarians may also have higher costs for care than in the US.****



2. Time

Must have a rabies vaccine, microchip, and original passing FAVN (rabies antibody titer; >0.5 IU/ml) at least 30 days post-rabies vaccine. Once you have these, you have to get a health certificate within 10 days of departure, endorsed by an accredited vet AND the USDA. Your pet may only be able to fly on certain flights and dates if it is too hot or flight segments are too long.

3. Hardship

*Military veterinary clinics have limited surgical services, no emergency services, and are subject to close on short notice due to other mission requirements.

*Not all medications and diets are available in Korea. Some breeds are banned. Many large breeds must be registered with the Korean government and have strict leash/muzzle laws that carry fines up to \$3000 or jail time.

*In case of Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO), only two pets (dog or cat) are authorized to evacuate, but are not guaranteed evacuation.

*It is also becoming increasingly difficult to export pets OUT of Korea due to stringent airline restrictions and limited space through the Patriot Express/AMC. Pet shipping fees can range upwards of \$15,000 per pet. Pet abandonment is punishable via UCMJ IAW USFK 40-5.



I know it is hard to imagine leaving your furry friend at home, but it can decrease the stress on both of you and won't put you in potential financial strain, legal trouble (due to local laws or reporting late due to pet travel issues), or a situation where you have to leave your pet behind in Korea.

SHOULD YOU GET A PET IN KOREA?

1. Cost

Pet needs microchip, rabies, health certificate, kennel, and a flight minimum to go back to CONUS. Other locations may require additional testing and quarantine. Pets also need routine health care!

Example cost of pet care:

Puppy/Kitten wellness visit x3-4 (deworming, vaccines, microchip, parasite prevention) = \$310 min; not including follow up for heartworm testing (dogs), spay/neuter, additional preventatives, food, toys, dishes, bedding, crate, etc.

Example cost to travel:

Health certificate, microchip, rabies ~\$70, FAVN \$165, kennel ~\$50-\$270, flight ~ \$200 – \$15,000 = ~\$355 - \$15,375

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2. Time

Must have a valid rabies vaccine no sooner than 30 days prior to entry CONUS. OCONUS locations have additional strict requirements including FAVN antibody tests up to **three months prior** to travel and quarantine periods up to **six months prior**. No matter the destination, a health certificate and a Korean exportation certificate is required (typically within 10 days of travel). Your pet may only be able to fly on certain flights and dates if it is too hot or flights are too long.

****Please visit or call your veterinarian ASAP when you learn of your next potential duty station so we can help your pets prepare!****

4. Adopt or Buy?

Pet stores are cheap, but with a price of pets often being very sick (may die in your care or transmit a serious disease to you) due to poor conditions and being taken away from their mothers' too early. By "saving" a puppy or kitten from a pet store, you are encouraging the continuation of puppy/kitten mills.

Pet abandonment by military families is a huge issue in Korea. Shelters cannot keep up with large amount of stray pets found, resulting many pets being euthanized. **IF you decide a pet is right for your family** (ensure you know its behavior, personality, etc in advance), **adopt a pet**. You are **saving a life!**

I know it's tempting to get that cute puppy or kitten in the window at such a low cost or adopt that stray pet you saw running around on post, but know the future financial costs and responsibilities living and traveling overseas. A better option may be to get a pet when you go back to the US.